

**Meeting Summary
Southeast Alaska
Emergency Tow System Steering Committee**

December 23, 2010
Teleconference

Attendees:

Mark Janes, Nuka Research
John Brown, ADEC
Leslie Pearson, Pearson Consulting

Tim Robertson, Nuka Research
Dave Eley, Alaska Steamship Response

Proceedings:

Tim opened the meeting outlining goals for the meeting as further developing the workgroup membership, identifying planning needs for a meeting of the entire workgroup and begin planning for an exercise of the SE Alaska Emergency Tow System in Sitka.

The group reviewed the workgroup list that had been distributed previously. It was brought up that Sitka might not be the actual location for the deployment based on logistical considerations. These included the availability of a tug and a “stricken vessel” to tow. The group discussed the inclusion of more local government to ensure that the public is aware of the program and as possible resources for the exercise. Mr. Janes offered to use the workgroup list from the SE Potential Place of Refuge project and do additional research to increase the membership. Additionally it was pointed out that more of the tug and tow operators should be included.

The group discussed the Operations Manual and the exercise plan that were developed for the ETS in Unalaska. Both these will be modified to meet the needs of the SE ETS. The Manual will be made a statewide manual and will have appendices that will direct unique operations in each subarea. The group discussed the procedures and the assets used in the exercises that took place in Unalaska in 2007. The group agreed that the exercise should be at least 2 days and follow the general format of the exercise as outlined in the exercise plan. During that exercise, a tramper, tug, USCG helicopter and other vessels for observers were made available. The availability of a freighter or tramper would be very unlikely in SE due to the lack of that type of vessel in the region. The group discussed possible scenarios. More information on the shipping industries and USCG ability to provide assets will be addressed. Dave Eley discussed structuring the exercise so that industry participants, Alaska Steamship Response and possibly others, get credit for the exercise. He feels that this would make getting participation more likely. Additional research will be done to ensure that the exercise meets these requirements.

John Brown discussed the status of the ETS package. It is scheduled to be in Sitka in late February.

The group planned for a meeting of the entire workgroup for January 10, 2011. The meeting would inform the workgroup of the program, begin planning for the exercise and identifying the assets that the workgroup members would be able to make available for use in the exercise.

Action Items:

- Research additional contact to increase WG membership-Nuka Research, Eley
- Begin contacting workgroup members regarding meeting date-Nuka Research
- Begin the adaptation of the Operation Manual and the Exercise Plan-Nuka Research